



IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A first image formation apparatus connected to at least a second image formation apparatus such that data communications can be executed between the image formation apparatuses, said first image formation apparatus comprising:

- a reading unit configured to read an image of a document;
- a printing unit configured to print the read image of the document;
- a display unit configured to display keys to select a function; and
- a controller configured to execute a link copy mode in which the read image is transferred to said second image formation apparatus to share printing of the read image with the first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus,

wherein the first image forming apparatus is configured to display in a link copy mode validity of only keys for selection of usable functions in the link copy mode after the link copy mode has been selected, the usable functions being functions which both the first image formation apparatus and the second image formation apparatus are able to execute,

wherein the first image forming apparatus is configured to display in a link copy mode invalidity of keys including a half-tone display for selection of unusable functions in the link copy mode after the link copy mode has been selected, the unusable functions being functions which neither the first image formation apparatus nor the second image formation apparatus are able to execute.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The first image formation apparatus according to the claim 10, wherein the function comprises a staple function.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The first image formation apparatus according to the claim 10, wherein said first image formation apparatus is connected to said second image formation apparatus peer to peer.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An image formation system having a link copy mode in which, of a plurality of image formation apparatuses connected to each other for enabling data communications, an image formation apparatus functioning as a master machine reads an image of a document to be copied, the read image is transferred to at least one other image formation apparatus functioning as a slave machine, and printing of the read image is shared by said master machine and said slave machine,

wherein each slave machine is configured to report functions available in said slave machine to said master machine, and said master machine is configured to display in a link copy mode validity of only keys which permit selection of usable functions in the link copy mode after the link copy mode has been selected, usable functions being functions which all of the master machine and each slave machine are able to execute,

wherein said master machine is configured to display in a link copy mode invalidity of keys which prohibit selection of unusable functions, unusable functions being functions, which all of the master machine and each slave machine are unable to execute.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The image formation system according to the claim 13, wherein the functions comprise a staple function.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The image formation system according to the claim 13, wherein said master machine is connected to the slave machine peer to peer.

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Claims 16-140 (Canceled).